GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1034
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2003
REVISION OF HAJ SUBSIDY
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have revised its policy of providing subsidy for Haj pilgrims for the year 2004;

(b) if so, the details of the changes made therein;

(c) the total amount of subsidy given by the Government for Haj pilgrims during the year 2003 and how far the new policy would help the Government in reducing its expenditure on Haj pilgrims;

(d) whether the new policy has been criticized by the people intending to undertake Haj pilgrimage during the year 2004; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. The details of changes effected from Haj-2004 onwards are as under:-

(i) The subsidized Haj fare is permitted for each pilgrim only once in his/her life time from Haj 2004 onwards;

(ii) No Income Tax payer is allowed to avail of the subsidized fare from Haj-2004 onwards;

(iii) Only those pilgrims who live in the accommodation provided by Haj Committee would be eligible for the subsidized fare;

(iv) The subsidized fare would be kept at the existing level of Rs.12,000 for Haj2004 and the subsidy may be reduced in a phased manner in subsequent year. Government has also directed that an affidavit be obtained from the pilgrim to the effect that they have not availed the subsidized Haj fare earlier and that they are not income tax payee.

(c): The total provisional cost of operation of Haj flights during the year 2003 is estimated at Rs.225.83 crores which includes a provisional amount of subsidy of Rs.151.29 crores. The new policy is aimed at encouraging more deserving people to avail the benefit.

(d) & (e): Representations have been received from various quarters seeking repeal of the revised guidelines. However, this is not contemplated.